

## AMENDMENTS

### Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for castrating animals comprising:

an endless loop of resiliently stretchable material having a desired thickness and size;

and

a device for stretching and placing said loop about a scrotal sac, said device having a pair of jaws configured to engage a portion of said endless loop, said jaws further pivotally connected to a base portion, said base portion configured for slideable engagement along a holding rail said holding rail also having a portion configured to engage a portion of said endless loop at one end and a handle for grasping at the other end, said device further comprising a lever connected to said base portion by a pivot pin whereby said lever moves said base portion along said holding rail away from handle when said lever is moved in a generally downward direction to close said jaws and to open said jaws when said lever is moved in a generally upward direction toward said handle.

~~an articulating device configured to manipulate said jaws, so as to engage and stretch said endless loop.~~

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said jaws each have a post extending from an end of said jaws, said posts configured to be inserted with in one of said endless loops when said

endless loops are placed upon said device, and to stretch said loops when said base portion is advanced along said holding rail.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said base portion is configured to interact with said holding rail and with said jaws so as to open and close said jaws when said base portion is ~~holding rail is advanced~~ moved along said holding rail.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising ~~wherein said articulating device comprise~~ a pair of spacer bars pivotally connected to said jaws, and pivotally connected to a portion of said base plate ~~holding rail~~, said spacer bars configured to alternatively open and close said jaws when said base plate is alternatively moved along said holding rail.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [5] 1 wherein said lever further comprises a second pivot portion, said second pivot portion configured for connection with a brace arm, said brace arm having a first end pivotally connected to said holding rail and a second end pivotally connected to said lever.

7. (Canceled)

8. The system of claim 1 wherein said holding rail is made of a material which resists deformation.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein said endless loops are generally circular rubber bands having a thickness sufficient to provide a desired amount of tension so as to cut off blood flow in to a scrotal pouch so as to cause testicles to drop off.

10. (Currently Amended) A device for stretching rubber bands such as those used in removing body parts by constricting blood flow, said device comprised of

a pair of jaws configured to engage a portion of said endless loop, said jaws further pivotally connected to a base portion, said base portion configured for slideable engagement along a holding rail said holding rail also having a portion configured to engage a portion of said endless loop and a portion connected to a grasping handle, and an articulating device configured to move said base portion so as to manipulate said jaws, so as to engage and stretch said endless loop.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein said jaws each have a post extending from an end of said jaws, said posts configured to be inserted with in one of said endless loops when said

endless loops are placed upon said device, and to stretch said loops when said base portion its advanced along said holding rail.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein said base portion is configured to interact with said holding rail and with said jaws so as to open said jaws when said holding rail is moved ~~advanced~~ along said holding rail by said articulating device.

13. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein said articulating device is a lever pivotally connected to said base portion by a pivot pin whereby said lever advances said base portion along said holding rail when said lever is moved in a generally downward direction from said holding rail.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein said articulating device [is] includes a pair of spacer bars pivotally connected to said jaws, and pivotally connected to a portion of said holding rail, said spacer bars configured to alternatively open and close said jaws when said base plate is alternatively moved along said holding rail.

15. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein said holding rail is pivotally connected to a pair of spacer bars, said spacer bars also pivotally connected to said jaws, whereby advancing said base

plate along said holding rail causes said jaws to open a distance determined by the lengths of said spacer bars.

16. (Canceled) .

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 [16] wherein said lever further comprises a second pivot portion, said second pivot portion configured for connection with a brace arm, said brace arm having a first end pivotally connected to said holding rail and a second end pivotally connected to said lever.

18. (Canceled)

19. The system of claim 1 wherein said holding rail is made of a material which resists deformation.